

Application No. 10/709,646
Technology Center 3711
Amendment dated August 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 17, 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Previously presented): A device mountable on a golf club having a shaft with oppositely-disposed first and second ends, a grip at the first end of the shaft, and a head at the second end of the shaft, the grip having a first grip portion and a second grip portion located closer to the second end of the shaft than the first grip portion, the grip being tapered so that the second grip portion has a smaller diameter than the first grip portion, the device comprising:

a toroid-shaped body having an axis and a substantially uniform thickness in an axial direction of the body;

an opening in the body, coinciding with the axis of the body, and defining an inner perimeter of the body concentric with the axis of the body, the opening having a minimum dimension larger than the diameter of the second grip portion of the grip but smaller than the diameter of the first grip portion of

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the grip so that the body is prevented from being removed from the club over the first grip portion;

an outer perimeter spaced radially outward from and surrounding the inner perimeter and concentric with the axis of the body, the outer perimeter having a recess defined therein that is sized and contoured to accommodate a portion of a hand gripping the second grip portion of the grip, aside from the recess the outer perimeter being substantially uniformly spaced radially outward from the inner perimeter; and

a slot in the body and extending between the inner and outer perimeters thereof, the slot having a maximum width greater than the diameter of the shaft to permit installation of the body on the golf club.

Claim 2 (Original): The device according to claim 1, wherein the body is sufficiently rigid to resist distortion of the body when forced into an interference fit with the first grip portion of the body, and the slot is sized so that the device can only be installed on the club by passing the shaft of the club through the slot.

Claim 3 (Original): The device according to claim 1, wherein the

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body is sufficiently pliable to enable the device to be installed on the club by passing the first grip portion through the opening in the body, the device further comprising means for selectively causing the opening to acquire the minimum dimension thereof and thereby prevent removal of the device over the first grip portion.

Claim 4 (Previously presented): The device according to claim 1, further comprising means on the body for resisting torsional slip of the hand grasping the grip and contacting the body while swinging the club.

Claim 5 (Previously presented): The device according to claim 4, wherein the slip-resisting means comprises the recess defined on the outer perimeter and sized and contoured to accommodate a portion of the hand.

Claim 6 (Original): The device according to claim 4, wherein the slip-resisting means comprises a material on the body, the material defining a surface of the body disposed at an axial extremity thereof, the material having a higher coefficient of friction than a remaining portion of the body.

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Claim 7 (Currently amended): The device according to claim 1, wherein the device weighs less than one ounce ~~does not weigh more than eight ounces~~ so as not to detrimentally affect swinging of the golf club.

Claim 8 (Previously presented): A device mounted on a golf club having a shaft with oppositely-disposed first and second ends, a grip at the first end of the shaft, and a head at the second end of the shaft, the grip having a first grip portion and a second grip portion located closer to the second end of the shaft than the first grip portion, the grip being tapered so that the second grip portion has a smaller diameter than the first grip portion, the device comprising:

a body having an axis of symmetry;

an opening in the body and coinciding with the axis of the body, the opening defining an inner perimeter of the body surrounding and concentric with the axis of the body and contacting the grip of the club, the opening having a minimum dimension larger than the diameter of the second grip portion of the grip but smaller than the diameter of the first grip portion of the grip so that the body is prevented from being removed from the club over the first grip portion;

an outer perimeter spaced radially outward from and surrounding the

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inner perimeter and concentric with the axis of the body, the outer perimeter having a recess defined therein that is sized and contoured to accommodate a portion of a hand gripping the second grip portion of the grip, aside from the recess the outer perimeter being substantially uniformly spaced radially outward from the inner perimeter; and

a slot in the body and extending between the inner and outer perimeters thereof, the slot having a width greater than the diameter of the shaft to permit installation of the body on the golf club.

Claim 9 (Original): The device according to claim 8, wherein the body is sufficiently rigid and the slot is sized so that the device can only be installed on the club by passing the shaft of the club through the slot.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The device according to claim 8, further comprising means on the body for resisting torsional slip of the hand on the grip when swinging the club.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The device according to claim 10, wherein the slip-resisting means comprises the recess defined on the outer

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perimeter and sized and contoured to accommodate a portion of the hand.

Claim 12 (Original): The device according to claim 10, wherein the slip-resisting means comprises a material on the body, the material defining a surface of the body disposed at an axial extremity thereof, the material having a higher coefficient of friction than the body.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): The device according to claim 8, wherein the device weighs less than 0.5 ounce ~~does not weigh more than four ounces~~ so as not to detrimentally affect swinging of the golf club.

Claim 14 (Original): The device according to claim 8, wherein the body is sufficiently rigid to resist distortion of the body when forced into an interference fit with the first grip portion of the body.

Claim 15 (Original): The device according to claim 8, further comprising means for closing the slot in the body to prevent the device from being removed from the club.

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Claim 16 (Currently amended): A method for inhibiting hands of a golfer from slipping on a grip of a golf club having a shaft with oppositely-disposed first and second ends and a head at the second end of the shaft, the grip being at the first end of the shaft and having a first grip portion and a second grip portion located closer to the second end of the shaft than the first grip portion, the grip being tapered so that the second grip portion has a smaller diameter than the first grip portion, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a device having a body, an opening in the body so as to define an inner perimeter of the body, and an outer perimeter spaced radially outward from and surrounding the inner perimeter;

installing the device on the club;

securing the device on the club by pushing the device over the grip until an interference fit exists between the inner perimeter of the body and the first grip portion of the grip, wherein the opening in the body is sufficiently small to prevent the device from being removed from the club over the first grip portion; and then

grasping the grip of the golf club with the hands of the golfer so that the device is a physical barrier between the hands on the grip and the first end of the shaft to reduce the risk of the hands slipping off the grip and off the first

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end of the shaft the golf club, wherein the grip of the golf club is grasped with the hands so that portions of at least one of the hands and wrists associated therewith are accommodated in a recess defined on the outer perimeter of the device to resist torsional slip of the hands gripping the grip when swinging the club.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 16, further comprising a slot in the body and extending between the inner and outer perimeters thereof, wherein the slot is sized so that the device can only be installed on the club by passing the shaft of the club through the slot.

Claim 18 (Original): The method according to claim 16, wherein the body is sufficiently rigid so as to resist distortion of the body during the step of securing the device on the grip.

Claim 19 (Original): The method according to claim 16, wherein the body is sufficiently pliable to enable the device to be installed on the club by passing the first grip portion through the opening in the body, the method further comprising the step of selectively causing the opening to acquire the

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minimum dimension thereof and thereby prevent removal of the device over the first grip portion.

Claim 20 (Canceled)